

Europe is becoming a continent that is whole, free, and at peace. And it is essential that America and other free nations ensure that an embattled democracy seeking to stand with us remains sovereign, secure, and undivided.

Russia's actions in Georgia raise serious questions about its role and its intentions in the Europe of the 21st century. In recent years, Russia has sought to integrate into the diplomatic, political, economic, and security structures of the West. The United States has supported those efforts. Now Russia has put its aspirations at risk by taking actions in Georgia that are inconsistent with the principles of those institutions.

To begin to repair the damage to its relations with the United States, Europe,

and other nations and to begin restoring its place in the world, Russia must act to end this crisis.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:30 a.m. on August 15 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 16. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 15. In his address, the President referred to President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, in his capacity as President of the European Council. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks in Crawford, Texas *August 16, 2008*

Situation in Georgia

Good morning. I just had a briefing by my national security team on the latest updates—on the latest developments in Georgia, and there is some progress to report.

First of all, I want to thank Secretary of State Rice for her trip, and thank you for coming back here to Crawford to give me a firsthand briefing.

She went to Tbilisi, met with President Saakashvili and his team. And during that time, the President signed the six-point peace plan negotiated by President Sarkozy on behalf of the European Union. President Medvedev of Russia has now signed on to the terms of this agreement. And that's an important development; it's a hopeful step.

Now Russia needs to honor the agreement and withdraw its forces and, of course, end military operations.

Secretary Rice will soon travel to Brussels, where she will meet with the foreign ministers of our NATO allies, EU officials

to continue to rally the free world in the defense of a free Georgia.

This morning, also, I was briefed by Secretary Gates on the U.S. military's humanitarian mission to help the Georgian people recover from the trauma they have suffered. In recent days of—military flights have landed in Georgia to provide relief supplies, and more will be arriving in the days ahead.

A major issue is Russia's contention that the regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia may not be a part of Georgia's future. But these regions are a part of Georgia, and the international community has repeatedly made clear that they will remain so. Georgia is a member of the United Nations, and South Ossetia and Abkhazia lie within its internationally recognized borders. Georgia's borders should command the same respect as every other nation's.

There's no room for debate on this matter. The United Nations Security Council

has adopted numerous resolutions concerning Georgia. These resolutions are based on the premise that South Ossetia and Abkhazia remain within the borders of Georgia and that their underlying conflicts will be resolved through international negotiations. These resolutions are based on the premise that South Ossetia and Abkhazia are to be considered a part of the Georgian territory, and that to the extent that there's conflicts, they will be resolved peacefully.

These resolutions reaffirm Georgia's sovereignty and independence and territorial integrity. Russia itself has endorsed these resolutions. The international community is

clear that South Ossetia and Abkhazia are part of Georgia, and the United States fully recognizes this reality.

We will continue to stand behind Georgia's democracy; we will continue to insist that Georgia's sovereignty and independence and territorial integrity be respected.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:06 a.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia; and President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, in his capacity as President of the European Council.

Memorandum on Assignment of Function Under Sections 1001(a) and (b) of the America COMPETES Act To Convene a National Science and Technology Summit and Submit a Report to the Congress Detailing the Results of the Summit

August 18, 2008

Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy

Subject: Assignment of Function Under Sections 1001(a) and (b) of the America COMPETES Act To Convene a National Science and Technology Summit and Submit a Report to the Congress Detailing the Results of the Summit

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3,

United States Code, I hereby assign to you the function of the President under sections 1001(a) and (b) of the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110-69).

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 19, and it was not received for publication in the *Federal Register*.

Statement on the Death of President Levy Patrick Mwanawasa of Zambia

August 19, 2008

Laura and I are saddened to hear of the passing of Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa. President Mwanawasa was a champion of democracy in his own country

and throughout Africa. As President of Zambia, President Mwanawasa launched a sweeping anticorruption campaign and dedicated himself to improving the welfare